1

HAZUKI TAKEOKA • FLY

CHASING AFTER

Aoi Koshiba

Aoi Koshiba

CHASING AFTER

1



Created by
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CHASING AFTER Aoi Koshiba

Chapter 0:
Those Days

1

contents

Chapter 0: Those Days ——— 1

Chapter 1: I Want to Shine ——— 19

Chapter 2: No Bother ——— 61

Chapter 3: I Want to Get to Know You (Part 1) ——— 105

Chapter 4: I Want to Get to Know You (Part 2) ——— 127

Chapter 5: The Very Beginning (Part 1) ——— 145

Chapter 6: The Very Beginning (Part 2) ——— 177

MURMUR

MURMUR

3 CHŪO LINE
19:45 TAKAO
19:48 TAKAO
PRRRRRR

THE TRAIN IS NOW ARRIVING ON TRACK 3.

LONG TIME, NO SEE, TOKYO...

MURMUR

SHOOT... I WAS LOOKING FOR A LOCKER AT THE STATION AND NOW I'M **SUPER** LATE...

Nanyō
Private
High Scho
The 47th

Alumni Association

Date and Time

Location

Membership
Fee

WHAT
AM I EVEN
TRYING TO
CONFIRM BY
GOING TO
THIS THING?

OR BE REASSURED BY WHAT STILL LINGERS?

AM I TRYING TO TAKE STOCK OF WHAT I'VE LOST?

...

OH! NOW IS **NOT** THE TIME FOR THIS!

Saho, you're late. We're all waiting!

GASP

I SUDDENLY WANT TO GO HOME!

BEEP BEEP

HEYYY!

SAHOKOOO!

SQUEEZE

YOU'RE AS TINY AND SQUISHY AND CUTE AS EVER!

RIKO-CHAN!

GET OFF ME!

OH MY GOD— YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL!!

TAKE A LOOK...

SWIP

BEHOLD, THE RADIANCE OF WEDDED LIFE...

A MARRIED WOMAN

SPARKLE

キラキラ

WHOA! SO BRIGHT!

ANNA-CHAN!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Y...

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE NURSING JOBS ARE HARD TO COME BY.

WHAT?!

ANNA LANDED A JOB!

Y'ALL ARE SHININ' TOO BRIGHT...

COUNTRY FOLK LIKE ME CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT YA.

ピカピカ!

PIKA PIKA!

LIKE, WHERE ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE FROM...?

WAIT.

YOU **ARE** ATTENDING UNIVERSITY IN KANSAI, RIGHT?

...

ME TOO!

PHEW, AM I HUNGRY! I'M GOING TO GRAB SOME FOOD.

SAHOKO...

SWIP

I JUST THOUGHT I'D LET YOU KNOW.

AOI'S NOT HERE.


SO AOI DIDN'T COME...
NO.

...I CAN'T EXPECT TO JUST BUMP INTO THE ONE I'M LOOKING FOR.

CHATTER ざわ

EVEN WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE, I GUESS...

CHATTER ざわ

I HEARD THE ORGANIZERS REACHED OUT A COUPLE OF TIMES, BUT NO LUCK.

I SEE...

IT WAS JUST DIFFERENT FOR HER, YOU KNOW? THAT'S PROBABLY ALL IT WAS.

IT WAS MY BAD...

AOI.

EVEN NOW, HEARING
HER NAME MAKES
MY HEART STOP.

HEY, SOUNDS LIKE JOINING IN LATE IS TOTALLY OKAY. SO IF WE STICK AROUND, SHE COULD STILL SHOW UP— LET'S SEE.

THANKS, ANNA-CHAN.


AT THIS POINT...
...I'M JUST BEING SELFISH.

I WANT TO SEE AOI TODAY,
SO I CAN BE SURE.

CHASING AFTER *Aoi Koshiba*

Winter, Third Year of University

CHASING AFTER *Aoi Koshiba*

Summer, Second Year of High School

SUMMER, SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

ちゅん TWEET

ちゅん TWEET

SAHOKO! TIME TO GET UUUP!

SAHOKOOO!

Chapter 1:
I Want to Shine



THERE.

TUG

Chapter 1:
I Want to Shine

...

SAHOKO!!!

EVERY MORNING, THE SAME THING!

WHY DOES IT TAKE YOU SO LONG TO GET READY?!

SAHOKO!

HURRY UP AND EAT YOUR BREAK-FAST!

DON'T MAKE ME RE-PEAT MY-SELF!

ILLGA-

UGHHH! YOU DON'T HAVE TO REPEAT YOURSELF! I AM READY!

CHAK

NO THANKS. I'M GONNA MISS THE TRAIN.

SO YOU **WEREN'T** READY ON TIME...

EAT YOUR BREAKFAST AND GET GOING.

OKAY, OKAY.

GLARE

YOU, TOO, MOM. EVERY MORNING, THE SAME THING... YELLING!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU TALK LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS?

I WON'T! YOU SHOULD GO—YOUR TRAIN'S COMING!

JOLT

EXCUSE MEEE?

YOU'RE STILL YOUNG! MAYBE YOU DON'T NEED TO PUT ON ALL THAT MAKEUP.

RIGHT?

BUT LOOKS ARE THE ONLY THING SIS HAS GOING FOR HER.

I'M HEADING OUT!

HEH!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WORK ON WHAT'S INSIDE, IF YOU DON'T **LOOK** GOOD, NO ONE WILL NOTICE.

...SO WE ARE IN FOR A GOOD DAY.

TODAY'S WEATHER LOOKS TO BE SUNNY...

SHE'S SO SKINNY!

ISN'T SHE THE CUTEST?

IT'S NARITA-SAN!

キーン コーン DING DONG

TIME FOR THE MORNING ANNOUNCE-MENTS.

THAT'S ALL ANYONE SEES, ANYWAY.

AS LONG AS I LOOK GOOD, WHO CARES?

TMP

I WOULD KNOW.

TMP

HEH...

HEH HEH HEH HEH.

...

I FEEL GREAT!

I'VE BEEN THE CENTER OF ATTENTION ALL MORNING...

I'M GONNA HAVE A GOOD DAY!♡

GRIP

NARITA-SAN SEEMS TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD!

SURE DOES.

すたたた

"TODAY'S LUNCH~ ♡"

I HAVE MY NOTI-FICATIONS TURNED ON~

HEY, SAHOKO NARITA POSTED ON INSTAGRAM.

CAFETERIA

ARE YOU STALKING HER...?

SEEING SAHOKO NARITA, ANNA INABA, AND RIKO WATANABE SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER... IS QUITE THE SPECTACLE.

EVEN IF SHE DOES...

THAT'S BECAUSE **SHE'S** TOTALLY DIFFERENT. SHE, LIKE, GLOWS.

YOU BOTH EAT THE SAME KITSUNE UDON FOR LUNCH, AND YET HERS LOOKS TOTALLY DIFFERENT...

DON'T GO COMPARING ME TO HER...

CHATTER

CHATTER

IF I HAD TO GIVE THOSE THREE HASHTAGS...

#DITZY

#COOL

...OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

#PRECIOUS

HM?

WOW, SAHOKO.

WAFFLE CAFÉ

NOT TRUE!!

SMIRK SMIRK ニヤニヤ

YOU'D RISK YOUR LIFE FOR THE GRAM.

WHOA, REALLY? I'M SO HAPPY!

SEE?

LOOK AT ALL THOSE LIKES ON THE PHOTO YOU JUST UPLOADED.

MWA HA HA

THAT'S TRUE. ♡

THERE, THERE. RIKO REALLY DOES HAVE AN AWFUL PERSONALITY.

ANNA-CHAN, RIKO-CHAN'S BULLYING ME!

THAT WAS FAST...

OH— WE BROKE UP.

DEAREST ANNA-CHAN WITH THE AWESOME PERSONALITY, HOW HAS THE BOYFRIEND BEEN LATELY?

WHAT, ME? LOOK...

ARE YOU EVER GONNA GET A BOYFRIEND YOURSELF?

MIND YOUR BUSINESS...

SINCE YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL!

YOU'LL BE OKAY! ANNA-CHAN ALWAYS FINDS GREAT BOYFRIENDS!

AH— YUUKI-KUN FROM THE SOCCER CLUB?

ニヤニヤ

I'M STILL NOT OVER MY LAST BOYFRIEND...

OR SOME-THING?

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...?

WHAAAT? OF COURSE HE DOES!

BA-DMP ドッ

HE LITERALLY SOUNDS FAKE.

DOES HE ACTUALLY EXIST?

I WANNA CHANGE THE SUBJECT QUICKLY...

STAREEE

ANNA-CHAN, YOU'RE SO SHARP!

ANNA-CHAN, YOU'RE SO MEAAAN!

IT'S STILL A LITTLE COLD OUT FOR THAT, ISN'T IT?

SHE'S HAVING A WATER FIGHT?

VOILÀ! SUBJECT CHANGED!

IT'S KOSHIBA-SAN.

SKRUT

OH.

SIIIP

OHHHH.

AOI KOSHIBA. SHE'S GOT PLENTY OF ENERGY.

FOR SURE.

WAS SHE ONE OF THOSE GIRLS WHO ONLY HUNG OUT WITH THE GUYS?

SHE USED TO PLAY ON THE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM. SHE WAS REALLY GOOD, BUT I HAVE NO CLUE IF SHE STILL PLAYS.

ARE YOU TWO CLOSE?

WAIT, WHY ARE YOU ASKING ABOUT KOSHIBA?

JUST 'CAUSE. SHE SAT NEXT TO ME DURING THE EXTRA LECTURE THE OTHER DAY.

AND SHE SEEMED NICE!

AH HA HA

NO, WE JUST WENT TO JUNIOR HIGH TOGETHER. THAT'S HOW I KNOW HER.

WOW, YOU BOTH WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL!

IS SAHOKO A DITZ?

DEFINITELY A DITZ.

I ASSUMED SHE WAS TOTALLY FOCUSED ON BASKETBALL IN HIGH SCHOOL, TOO.

フシャー
FSHHH

HUH, NO WAY...

KOSHIBA-SAN MUST BE REALLY GOOD, THEN.

AHAHA

GAHH!

THE WATER'S SO COLD—!

SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING SO MUCH FUN. SHE'S SPARKLING...

NA-RI-TA-SAN ...

FWUP

しば

KOSHIBA-SAAAN!

...HAS AN ASPIRA-TIONAL SELF.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU'RE SOAKED!

I FEEL LIKE EVERY-ONE...

SHE'S SO UTTERLY, EFFORTLESSLY NATURAL...

I'M OKAY!

IT'LL DRY RIGHT AWAY!

KOSHIBA-SAN ISN'T BOTHERED BY THINGS LIKE PEOPLE STARING AT HER.

...SHE'S LIKE A DOG.

WAAAH

STOOOP!

FSSHHHH

SHUT UP!

SO COLD!

AND NO ONE WOULD WANNA SEE **YOU** AT THE WET T-SHIRT CONTEST, ANYWAY!

I'M HOME!

パタン SHUT

I'M GLAD I TOLD THEM I COULDN'T HANG OUT.

MY THROAT KINDA HURTS.

PLAP

PLAP

I WAS SUPER DUPER BORING.

UP UNTIL JUNIOR HIGH...

ボフ BOMF

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

BETWEEN PROTAGONISTS AND SIDE CHARACTERS, I WAS DEFINITELY...

MAYBE LIKE A ROCK OR A TWIG...

...A SIDE CHARACTER.

...DRAWN IN THE BACKGROUND!

UWAAAAHH!

ROLL

AN EX-BASKETBALL PLAYER WHO CAN HANG WITH THE GUYS AND DRENCH THEM IN WATER LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL...

THEN THERE'S AOI KOSHIBA...

YOU COULD SAY I WORKED REALLY HARD FOR IT...

FROM THERE, I MADE IT MY GOAL TO LEAVE LOSERDOM BEHIND BY HANGING OUT WITH POPULAR KIDS LIKE RIKO-CHAN AND ANNA-CHAN.

SHOOP

HAAH

I WISH I COULD'VE BEEN BORN AS CAREFREE AS HER...!

...SO WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THEY LEFT ME BEHIND?

I'M THE ONE WHO TURNED THEM DOWN SINCE I DIDN'T FEEL WELL...

OH... OF COURSE THOSE TWO WENT AND GOT PARFAITS.

ROLL

I'M JELLY...

WELL, THESE ARE LIMITED SEASONAL FLAVORS, BUT THEY WOULDN'T WANT TO GO **AGAIN**, RIGHT?

YAYY

AND A PICTURE OF US SITTING TOGETHER WOULD BE MY MOST LIKED INSTAGRAM UPLOAD EVER!

A CAFÉ DATE WITH KOSHIBA-SAN WHO HAS AN IN WITH THE BOYS! THAT'LL MAKE ME POPULAR IN NO TIME!!

THEN, LIKE...
THEN, LIKE...!!!

WHY NOT INVITE KOSHIBA-SAN TO PARFAIT?!

LURCH

I GOTTA INVITE KOSHIBA-SAN! I'M GONNA MAKE IT HAPPEN!

IT-GIRLS LIKE ME SHINE BRIGHT BECAUSE WE PUT IN **THE WORK.**

THERE SHE IS!

CLAMOR ワイ

CLAMOR ワア

AND LIKE...

BUT SHE'S SURROUNDED BY GUYS... HOW DO I TALK TO HER?

TEP テ

UGH, I LOST HER AGAIN.

KOSHIBA-SAAAAN!

KOSHI...

OH...

KOSHIBA-SA...

I'LL NEVER CATCH HER...

NO WAY...

TSUP

KOSHIBA-SAN!

FWISH

THE BOYS' BATH-ROOM...?!

MENS

HEEEEY! IS IT OKAY IF I HEAD OUT?

YUUUUH!!

BE THERE SOON!

I COULD NEVER...

ちら-

GLANCE

PEERING INTO THE BOYS' BATHROOM LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL... WHAT THE HELL, KOSHIBA-SAN?

?!

WHERE?!

WHAAAAT?!

HUH?!

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED.

GRR...

IS IT JUST ME OR IS NARITA-SAN WEIRD TODAY?

GAH

OVER THERE!

WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO, KOSHIBA-SAN?

DOES SHE HATE ME?

KOSHIBA-SAN'S TALKING TO THAT STRING BEAN GIRL WITH THE GLASSES AND CREEPY KOKESHI DOLL VIBES?!

AND THAT ROUND GIRL WITH THE EXTRA 10 KG* AND SUMO VIBES?!

*1KG = APPROX. 2.2 LBS.

WHA...

STAREEE

WHAT ?!

OH! THANKS, IT LOOKS SO CUTE!

SST

HERE'S THE *AMIGURUMI* KNITTING BOOK I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT.

WHA...

WHA...

*WHY IS SOMEONE LIKE **KOSHIBA-SAN** HANGING OUT WITH PEOPLE LIKE **THAT**? WHEN SHE SHOULD BE HANGING OUT WITH OTHER **MAIN** CHARACTERS? DON'T YOU CARE THAT **THEIR** LOSERDOM COULD RUB OFF ON YOU?*

THEY SEEM LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN...

I'M JELLY...

IF I AIM TO CATCH HER WHEN SHE'S LEAVING, THERE'S NO WAY I'LL MISS HER...

THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN MY PLAN ALL ALONG.

SEE YOU TOMORROW~

YOU'RE GONNA WAIT FOR SOMEONE?

DING DONG チーン コーン

I MEAN, IT'S NOT A DATE, BUT...

SORTA! ♡

NARITA-SENPAI, DO YOU HAVE A DATE?!

BUT IT'S NOT A DATE...!

DON'T LET IT GET TO YA...

SHOW-OFF

I LOWKEY HAD A CRUSH ON HER, DUDE!

UGH

OH, BUT IF KOSHIBA-SAN LEAVES WITH HER GUY FRIENDS AGAIN, WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

YESSS! SHE'S ALONE!

HELL YEAH!

HERE SHE IS!

AH!

FLINCH

HUH?!

KOSHIBA-SAN!

OH, NO, MY BAD...

S-SORRY...

CHING

KSHUNK

BI---KE...

NO!

WAI...

KSHUNK

WHOOPS!

ACK!

HEADING HOME ALREADY? IT'S STILL EARLY.

YEAH, I HAVE STUFF TO DO.

CLANK カシャン

REALLY?

OH, NO THANK YOU!

HOMF はむっ

CANDY?

HEY, WANT SOME CANDY?

WHY DO I SOUND SO FORMAL ALL OF A SUDDEN?

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, SAHOKO!

OH, DURING LUNCH...

TO BE HONEST, I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU DURING LUNCH, BUT IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE BUSY...

SO, WHAT'S UP, NARITA-SAN? DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?

YEP, THEY'RE IN THE HOME EC CLUB...

YEAH, THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS?

KOSHIBA-SAN'S LIKE ANY OTHER TEEN.

YEAH, OF COURSE. YOUR SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME.

OBVI-OUSLY ...

SO, LIKE,

WOULD YOU MIND KEEPING WHAT YOU SAW TODAY BETWEEN THE TWO OF US?

EVERYONE IN THAT CLUB...

...IS AMAZING AT STUFF LIKE COOKING AND KNITTING.

AND YOU KNOW, I'M KINDA ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES...

I REALLY WANT TO MAKE A CUTE PLUSH ANIMAL... BUT PEOPLE WOULD LAUGH IF THEY HEARD THAT COMING FROM ME.

HUH?

ARE YOU OKAY...?

SST

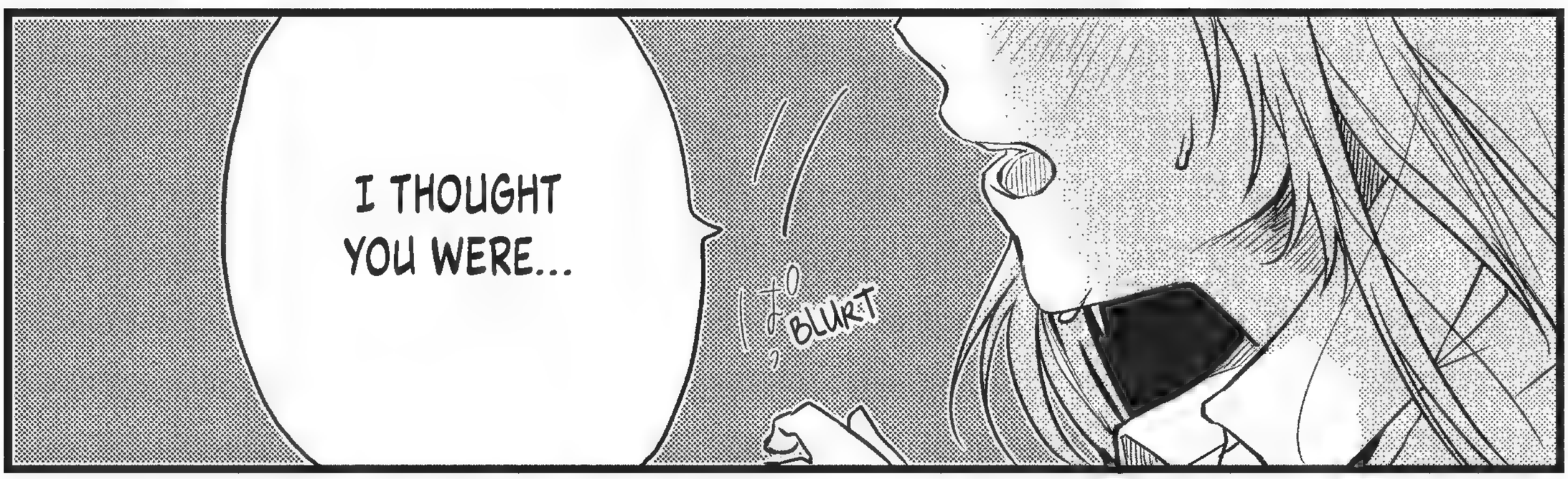
NA-
NARITA-
SAN?

SWAY

NO, I'M...

NO.


FLINCH
I'M SO EMBARRASSED I COULD DIE!


I THOUGHT YOU WERE...
BLURT


...?
UNCOOL?


...EMBARRASSED ABOUT BEING FRIENDS WITH THE UNCOOL KIDS...
BLUSH
SORRY FOR SHOUTING...

WHAT'S WRONG?

CLENCH

I'M THE ONE WHO'S EMBARRASSING...!

I DON'T WANT KOSHIBA-SAN TO HATE ME!

NARITA-SAN, YOU SEEM OUTTA BREATH...?

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

HUH?

GRAB

KO—!

GRAB

KOSHIBA-SAN, YOU...

GRIT

HOW CAN I...

WHAT DO I DO?

KOSHIBA-SAN IS **REAL.**

PLEASE DON'T HATE ME.

THIS FAKE ME...



...IT'S SODA FLAVORED...

URK—

...GET OUT OF THIS WITHOUT HER HATING ME?

CANDY...

AAAHHH?!

Chapter 2:
No Bother



THE TRAIN IS ARRIVING ON TRACK 3.

ALL ABOARD...

TOPKRRR

THE INSTAGRAM UPDATE I POSTED YESTERDAY WAS A GOOD ONE... THE LIKES KEEP COMING... HEH HEH HEH.

HEH.

TO-TALLY.

THAT GIRL IN FRONT OF US IS SERIOUSLY CUTE.

STARE

HEY,

LOOK.

SORRY!

HER HAIR GOT IN MY FACE...

FWSSSH

OH!

WOOSH

?
?
?
...

HOW DO GIRLS MAKE THEIR HAIR SMELL THAT GOOD?!

ドキ ドキ BA-DMP

ドキ ドキ BA-DMP

WHOA

HER HAIR SMELLED AMAZING!

ドキ ドキ BA-DMP

EVEN THE WIND'S ON MY SIDE TODAY! MY MORNING'S OFF TO A GREAT START!

I'M GLAD MY HAIR CARE IS WORKING ITS MAGIC!

MORNING.

YOU'RE EARLY TODAY!

I'M SAHOKO NARITA, 17 YEARS OLD.

I'M AN IT-GIRL WITH THE GLOW TO PROVE IT. I **LIVE** FOR MY INSTAGRAM!

I SAW IT! IT MADE ME CRY!

DID YOU WATCH LAST NIGHT'S DRAMA?

IT MADE ANNA-CHAN LAUGH, BUT WE KNOW SHE'S HEARTLESS.

AND THE COOLEST FRIENDS?
I CAUGHT 'EM ALL!

I USED TO BE SO PLAIN, SO UNCOOL... BUT IN HIGH SCHOOL, I DEBUTED MY NEW SELF.

THE HALF-JAPANESE BEAUTY: ANNA

THE BEAUTIFUL, FLUFFY, PRECIOUS CREATURE: RIKO

FWSH

WHAT IS IT?

KOSHIBA!

YEAH?

NOPE.

DID YOU DO THE MATH HOME-WORK?

I CAN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT WHAT WENT DOWN YESTERDAY!!!

I DID THE MATH HOMEWORK! SHOULD I SHOW IT TO KOSHIBA-SAN?

ドッ DMP

ドッ DMP

ドッ DMP

ドッ DMP

ドッ DMP

ドッ DMP





ZOOM

DASH

SEE YA!

I'LL SEE YOU AT LUNCH!

FLIP

TWIRL

...

SHE TOTALLY AVOIDED ME...

SLUMP

SAHOKO?

WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S HOPELESS...

I SCREWED UP...

SAHOKO, I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN YOU ACT LIKE THIS BEFORE~

...

THIS IS OUT OF CHARACTER FOR YOU, NO?

SWIP

I WASN'T EVEN THINKING! I JUST WENT AND KISSED HER!

IF A TOTAL STRANGER KISSED ME OUT OF NOWHERE, I'D AVOID THEM LIKE THE PLAGUE, TOO!

DEMON...

LOL.

FLASH

2－C

MY FIRST KISS...

...TASTED LIKE SODA.

HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS GOING TO HAUNT ME?!

ARGH

EEEEK !!!

WHAT IF SHE THINKS I LIKE GIRLS?

...RITA...

NARITA...

I DON'T KNOW!! MY STOMACH HURTS!!

BAM!!

NARITA!

HEY!

英語

TRANSLATE THIS SENTENCE.

than ver

IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, YOU CAN GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE...

I- I SEE.

WHATEVER SHE THINKS...

I CAN'T WASTE ANOTHER SECOND.

IT'S ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING. I **HAVE** TO CLEAR THIS UP.

KOSHIBA-SAN?

I NEED TO TALK TO KOSHIBA-SAN.

SHE WENT TO PLAY SOCCER WITH THE BOYS A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

HUH? SHE'S GONE?

KOSHIBA? SHE WAS RIGHT THERE JUST A MINUTE AGO..

PAGING CLASS 2-B'S AOI KOSHIBA-SAN!

UM—

BROADCASTING ROOM

MURMUR

PLEASE COME OUT! YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM ME FOREVER!

KOSHIBA-SAN...

MURMUR

WELL, IF THAT'S HOW SHE'S GONNA BE...!

KOSHIBA-SAN, PLEASE COME OUT IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT DID KOSHIBA EVEN DO?

I REPEAT...

I WANTED TO BE FRIENDS, BUT NOW SHE MUST HATE ME...

GRAND DELUSIONS

WOULD SHE SHOW UP IF I BROADCAST IT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL?

WHOOSH

PAIN.

THAT'S IT!

LIKE, AFTER SCHOOL, WE'D SHOP AT THE TRENDIEST STORES...

AND ON OUR DAYS OFF, WE'D TAKE A LITTLE TRIP SOMEWHERE AND HANG OUT...

THIS IS SO DEPRESSING!

I COULD'VE ACTUALLY BEEN FRIENDS WITH KOSHIBA BY NOW...

CULTURE CLUB ROOM

SHOGI CLUB VICE PRESIDENT / ASTRONOMY CLUB MEMBER: HIROMU KURINA

PRESIDENT...

IT'S NOW OR NEVER, KURINA.

SHOGI CLUB PRESIDENT: ICHITARO TOCHINO

IT'S REALLY BUGGING ME!

I CAN FIX IT, BUT NEXT THING YOU KNOW, IT'LL STICK UP ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR BEDHEAD?

...ISN'T THAT FOR CLOTHING?

I CAN IRON IT IF IT'S BOTHERING YOU!

PSSHHH!

WHOA...

IT HAS A STEAM BUTTON.

PSHHH! ONE PASS AND IT'LL LAY NICE AND FLAT!

RATTLE

TOCHINO-KUUUN...

NOW THAT YOUR DEFENSES HAVE BEEN LOWERED, I'LL MAKE MY MOVE! CHECKMATE!

SWIP

HEY! HOLD IT!

THAT'S SNEAKY, KURINA!

AND CARELESS PEOPLE MAKE BAD PRESIDENTS!

CHAK-S

...WASN'T HE THE ONLY MEMBER WHO CARED ABOUT GEO-HISTORY?

MOMOI-KUN QUIT THE GEOHISTORY CLUB.

DID YOU HEAR?

...

IF WE DON'T RECRUIT SOMEONE SOON, IT'S ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL **WE** GET SUSPENDED, TOO.

THE CLUB WAS SUSPENDED FOR NOT HAVING ENOUGH MEMBERS.

SIGH...

THEY BOTH HAVE THEIR **OWN** CLUBROOMS, THOUGH?!

THE WIND ENSEMBLE DOES, TOO. WE'RE LIVING ON BORROWED TIME...!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, DIDN'T THE THEATER CLUB USE THIS ROOM FOR STORAGE...?

MUTTER... TO!!!

SO WE NEED NEW MEMBERS, HUH.

IF WE CAN FIND SOMEONE WHO'S WELL KNOWN, THAT'D BE GREAT!

UH-HUH UH-HUH

ANYONE IS FINE!

YEP, WE SURE DO.

CULTURE CLUB MEETING ROOM

HA HA HA.

YEAH, I GUESS YOU HAVE A POINT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "WELL KNOWN"...?

YOU KNOW, LIKE A GIRL WHO'S GOT A CERTAIN SPARKLE!

EXCUSE ME...

RATTLE

NO ONE LIKE THAT WOULD COME TO THIS DUSTBIN...

KRAK

IS KOSHIBA-SAN AROUND?

SHE—!

!!!

HM? WHAT'S ALL THIS?

I STEPPED ON SOME-THING.

?

SHE'S SPARKLING!!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!!!

HUH?

KURINA!

HEY!

WHAT IS IT?

CLATTER

THANKS.

PLEASE, SIT DOWN.

DON'T ASK ME! I'VE NEVER TALKED TO THIS KIND OF GIRL BEFORE!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW!?

GOOD LUCK, MR. PRESIDENT... YOU ARE THE PRESIDENT, AFTER ALL!

CULTURE CLUB APPEAL

WE HAVE AN ELECTRIC KETTLE, SO HAVE AS MUCH TEA AS YOU LIKE.

THANK YOU.

SORRY FOR ALL THE NOISE.

HERE YOU ARE.

THEY'RE SO POLITE.

HAVE SOME CANDY.

じ～っ GLANCE

STARE!!!

YEAH.

SHE DRANK IT.

OH, MALE LOSERS.

FROM A GROWTH SPURT?

OKAY, BUT CAN WE DISCUSS GLASSES OVER HERE WITH THE MOM CAPRIS...?

BUT THIS FEELS FAMILIAR... IT FEELS LIKE HOME. IT'S COMFY.

I WAS JUST LIKE THESE SIDE CHARACTERS, BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH.

GOD, THEY'RE PLAIN...

S-SO, NARITA-SAN, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CLUB, OR...?

HUH?

NO, NOT REALLY. I'M HERE TO SEE KOSHIBA-SAN.

SHIII

IF I STAY HERE TOO LONG, I MIGHT GET TRAPPED.

!

ALREADY?

WHAT ?!

THANK YOU FOR THE TEA!

I NEED TO FIND KOSHIBA-SAN. I'LL COME BACK AGAIN SOMETIME, OKAY?

TSU DASH

YOU CAN'T GO GRABBING A GIRL'S ARM LIKE THAT!

KURINA!

NO, WAIT, YOU CAN'T LEAVE YET.

CRAP!

GWIP

THE BORROWED TIME!! IT'S RIGHT HERE!

RIGHT, PRESIDENT?

IF WE LET HER LEAVE, OUR CLUBROOM'S GONNA GO POOF!

WA

AH

HOW ABOUT WE PLAY A CASUAL GAME OF SHOGI? MAYBE YOU'LL FIND IT TO YOUR LIKING.

B-BUT...

IT'D BE BETTER FOR YOU TO STAY THAN COME BACK LATER.

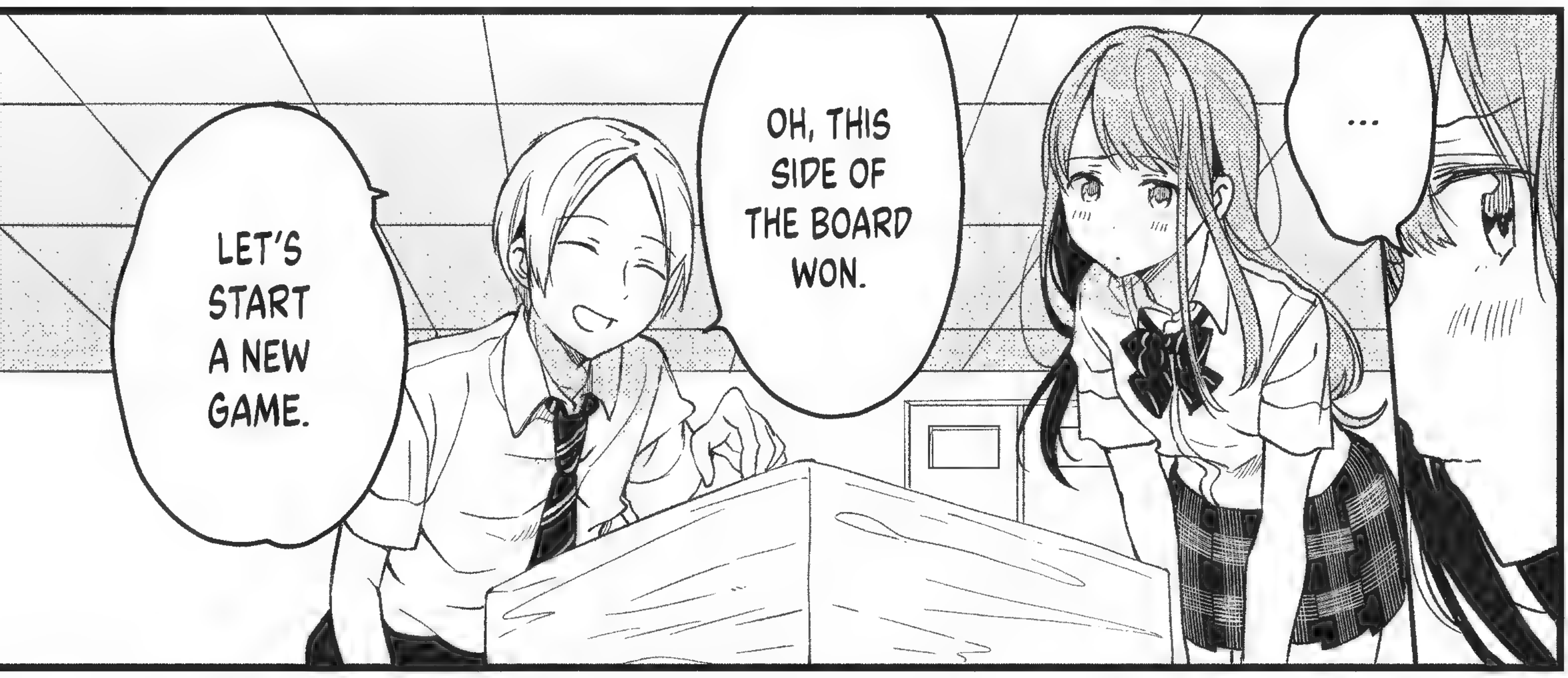
WAIT HERE. SHE'LL BE BACK SOON.

EEEK~

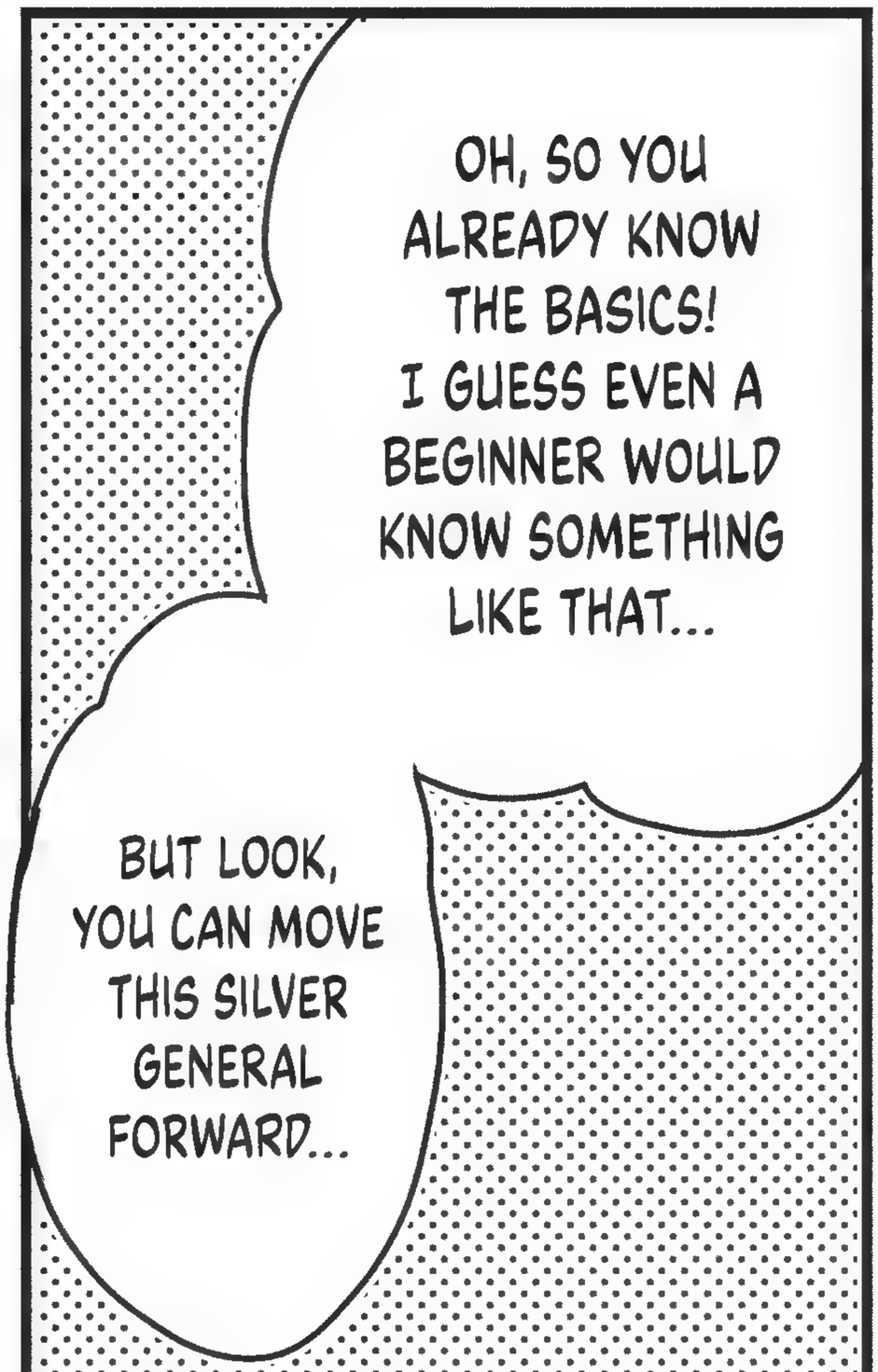
YOU'RE QUITE THE GAMBLER, AREN'T YOU, KURINA...?


DON'T WORRY!
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO PLAY!


SHOGI? I DON'T KNOW...


LET'S START A NEW GAME.
OH, THIS SIDE OF THE BOARD WON.
...


AND THEN YOU CAN MOVE THIS PAWN...
CLACK


OH, SO YOU ALREADY KNOW THE BASICS! I GUESS EVEN A BEGINNER WOULD KNOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
BUT LOOK, YOU CAN MOVE THIS SILVER GENERAL FORWARD...


ARE YOU SURE? THE KING CAN STILL MOVE...

I SEE.

OH... THAT MOVE WAS OPEN, HUH?

UM...

HUH?

THAT'S ODD...

1よ0ち, BLINK

HUH?

HOLD ON A SEC.

UM...?

1よ0ち, BLINK

...

WOW

SHE'S WINNING.

UMM

I PLAY **TO WIN.**

IF I'M GONNA PLAY...

SORRY TO ASK, BUT DO YOU PLAY PRO?

I-I CAN'T WIN.

HE SURREN-DERED.

UGHHH, I DIDN'T WANNA MENTION PLAYING 'CAUSE IT MAKES ME SOUND LIKE A GEEZER!

NO, MY GRANDPA WAS JUST A FAN OF SHOGI... HE'S NOT AROUND ANYMORE, THOUGH.

WOW—!

YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT SHOGI, NARITA-SAN.

WELL, IF IT ISN'T KOSHIBA.

AH!

YO.

STOPPP!

YOU'RE SO GOOD EVEN KOSHIBA-SAN'S SURPRISED.

I CAME A LITTLE AFTER THE GAME STARTED.

WERE YOU WATCHING THE WHOLE TIME?

BLUSH

O-OH, WELL, YOU KNOW, I DON'T PLAY THAT OFTEN. I JUST GOT LUCKY TODAY...

I—

YOU'D BE A GOOD FIT.

WAIT, ARE YOU JOINING THE SHOGI CLUB?

BLURT

I JUST WANNA JOIN THE HOME EC CLUB...

...BECAUSE KOSHIBA-SAN'S IN IT!!!

TH...

DAMN IT!
THERE I GO
AGAIN!

THAT'S ALL
I HAD TO
SAY...

HEHE

HEH...

WELCOME!

OHH!

OH, SO
THAT'S WHY
YOU CAME!

PSSH...
HAHA!

WELL,
I GUESS
THAT'D BE
OKAY.

WHOA!

THUMP

TH-
THANK
YOU!

JUST HEAR ME OUT!

I'M FLATTERED, I GUESS? THANKS FOR YOUR, UH, FEELINGS...

THIS GOES FOR YESTERDAY, TOO.

NO! IT'S ALL A BIG MISUNDER-STANDING!

RUB RUB

NARITA-SAN, ARE YOU REALLY...

RUB RUB

I'M JUST HAPPY WE GOT A NEW MEMBER!

WHAT-EVER!

HOORAY

HOORAY

I FIXED IT.

OH, SAHOKO JUST MESSAGED US ON LINE.

...

...

Today

I think I just joined the Home Economics Club.

TEE-HEE BEAR

...

TEE-HEE BEAR...

WHAT?

Chapter 3:
I Want to Get to Know You (Part 1)

NISHINO-CHAN-SENSEI!

FACULTY ROOM

SLIDE

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU~

HEY!

IT'S "NISHINO-SENSEI."

JOINING A CLUB AT THIS TIME OF YEAR IS PRETTY UNUSUAL.

AREN'T YOU A SECOND-YEAR?

I'M HERE TO SUBMIT MY CLUB SIGN-UP FORM.

UM, WELL...

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

WELL, SOME THINGS HAPPENED, AND...

HEE HEE HEE...

OKAY, THEN, WHO'S THE ADVISOR OF THE HOME EC CLUB?

WHAT?

I'M NOT IN CHARGE OF THIS CLUB. YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEAK WITH THE ADVISOR.

I THINK IT'S GREAT THAT YOU WANT TO JOIN, BUT...

BA-DUMP

HUH?

AH! VICE PRINCIPAL! I HAVE A QUICK QUESTION ABOUT THE HOME ECONOMICS CLUB...

YES?

ARE YOU BUSY?

FLIP ぱら FLIP ぱら FLIP ぱら

J-JUST ONE MOMENT...

HOME ECONOMICS... HOME ECONOMICS...

IS IT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT...?

DO YOU KNOW ANY TEACHERS WHO WOULD?

I DON'T, ACTUALLY...

WHAT? THIS SCHOOL HAS A HOME ECONOMICS CLUB?

DO YOU KNOW WHO THE ADVISOR IS?

THE ADVISOR IS YUNA BABA-SENSEI!

BABA-SENSEI TEACHES P.E...

NARITA-SAN!

I FIGURED IT OUT!

15 MINUTES LATER...

HUFF HUFF

APOLOGIES FOR THE WAIT!

QUIT CALLING ME THAT.

YUNA-CHAN!

SOMEONE CALL MY NAME?

WHAT?

PEEK

I THINK SHE ALSO ADVISES THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB...

THE HOME ECONOMICS CLUB JUST GOT A NEW MEMBER!

N-NICE TO MEET YOU.

OH, OKAY.

I DON'T DO MUCH ADVISING FOR THAT GROUP, THOUGH. I'M TOO BUSY WITH THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB.

YOU MUST BE TIRED.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'LL CATCH YOU LATER—KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

I HAVE CLUB STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF!

YOU DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, DO YOU, YUNA-CHAN...

HMPH.

SHE LEFT...

...

WHERE DID THE SUDDEN INTEREST IN THE HOME ECONOMICS CLUB COME FROM, NARITA-SAN?

...ONE OF MY FRIENDS IS A MEMBER.

SIGH...

YUNA-CHAN IS TOO LAX...

HMMM

FRIEND.

EEE! STOO-OOOP!! ♡

AH... IS IT TOO EARLY TO CALL HER THAT?

IT'S GOT A SWEET RING TO IT...

KOSHIBA-SAN WOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT, RIGHT?

KOSHIBA-SAN'S MY FRIEND...

WELL THEN, NISHINO-CHAN-SENSEI...

I'M GOING TO GO JOIN MY FRIEND IN THE CLUB ROOM...

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP.

ISN'T KOSHIBA-SAN IN HOME ECONOMICS CLUB?

BYE, HAVE A GOOD TIME.

I GUESS TROUBLED GIRLS TEND TO ATTRACT EACH OTHER...

RATTLE

I TURNED IN MY APPLICATION FORM!

CULTURE CLUB

...

...

PLOP

...

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE I'M SOME EXOTIC ANIMAL...?

N-NO.

SWISH

THAT'S NOT WHY...

WHISPER

SAME.

...

WHISPER

SHE'S PICTURE PERFECT!

I'M HAPPY SHE JOINED AND ALL, BUT I'M NOT USED TO HER YET...

WHISPER

IT'S LIKE SHE'S A DEEP-SEA CREATURE AND ALL WE'VE EVER KNOWN IS THE SAVANNAH...

I CAN HEAR YOU...!

LET THE GIRLS HANDLE IT FOR NOW.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, KURINA?

WE COME FROM THE SAME PLANET.

I'M ACTUALLY AN ANGLERFISH AT HEART.

OH...

THAT REMINDS ME, DID KOSHIBA-SAN STOP BY?

R-REALLY?

USAMI-SAN, I TURNED IN MY APPLI-CATION!

SKRUT

I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.

THAT MAKES YOU AN OFFICIAL CLUB MEMBER.

"TODAY."

SHE'S MIA AGAIN!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I CAN'T SAY I'VE SEEN HER TODAY.

...AND DURING LUNCH, SHE HELPS PREP FOR THE CULTURE FESTIVAL.

KOSHIBA-SAN GOES HOME AFTER SCHOOL ENDS...

I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN HER SINCE YESTERDAY...

WHY DID I EVEN JOIN THIS CLUB?

SERI-OUSLY?

YOU'RE QUITTING ALREADY?!

CULTURE CLUB DISBAND-MENT...

I SHOULD JUST QUIT THIS CLUB.

SULK

PRESI-DENT!

NARITA-SAN WANTS TO QUIT!!

IF I QUIT NOW, THESE PEOPLE WILL BE IN TROUBLE.

GLANCE

BUT...

I'M NOT QUITTING!

IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO DAYS!

YOU KNOW, I WAS WATCHING A TV REPORT RECENTLY THAT SAID YOUNG PEOPLE TEND TO QUIT THEIR JOBS AROUND THREE DAYS IN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY THIS TOGETHER?

HEY, NARITA-SAN!

HA?!!

FSH

FELT?

TA-DAH

I JUST BOUGHT IT!

SOFT WOOL FELT

WOOL FELT!

WHAT? NO WAY. I CAN'T!

DON'T WORRY! IT'S SUPER EASY TO LEARN!!

WE CAN USE THIS NEEDLE TO SEW THE WOOL...

...AND MAKE MASCOT PLUSHIES AND THINGS LIKE THAT!

EASY...

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PATTERN BEFORE!

IN WHAT WORLD IS THIS *EASY?!*

WAIT, SEIJI, ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH NARITA-SAN?

NARITA-SAN UPDATED HER INSTAGRAM.

OH.

SCROLLING THROUGH THE INSTA STORIES OF A CLUMSY CUTIE LIKE NARITA-SAN MAKES ME FEEL LIKE HER COOLNESS IS RUBBING OFF ON ME...

EWWW...

EW...?

I FOLLOW HER FOR THE FEELS...

WHAT?

"A CLUMSY CUTIE LIKE NARITA-SAN," HUH...

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

HUH?

My first attempt!
Cute, right?

SHOULD I TELL HER?

THE HELL? WAS HER ACCOUNT HACKED?

PFFT

That's a cute caterpillar!

Nice job with that caterpillar!

QT caterpillyyyy!

IT'S A PARAKEET!!!

I ONLY GOT HALF THE LIKES I USUALLY DO...

I SHOULD'VE...

...QUIT WHILE I WAS AHEAD.

Nice parakeet

LOL

U OK?

ANNA-CHAN AND RIKO-CHAN AREN'T INTO IT, EITHER...

AOI_88...

WHO POSTED THIS?

"AOI" ...

OH!

OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD!

OH MY GOD!

...

POMF

NICE PARAKEET!

I'LL MAKE SURE...

...TO THANK HER TOMOR-ROW.

Chapter 4:
I Want to Get to Know You (Part 2)

AFTER SCHOOL, I'M GOING TO EAT CAKE WITH ANNA-CHAN AND EVERYONE! I'M SO EXCITED!

LA

DI

DA

HEE HEE

HEE HEE HEE

I'M OPEN!

KOSHIBA!

WHEN WILL SHE BE DONE WITH BASKET-BALL FOR TODAY...?

I NEED TO THANK HER FOR LIKING MY PARAKEET...

KOSHIBA-SAN~

"STARE" じ!...

IT'S NARITA-SAN!

IS THAT...?

BA-DUMP

WHA...

UMMM, WELL...

WHAT'S UP?

WANNA PLAY BASKETBALL WITH US?

BUSTLE BUSTLE

W-WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

EEEEP

KOSHIBA-SAAAN!

WE GOT TOO EXCITED.

WHOOPS, SORRY.

STEP

DON'T TALK AT HER ALL AT ONCE!

HOLD ON!

WE WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH.

AND THE BASKETBALL TEAMS USED THE SAME GYM.

SO YOU'RE KOSHIBA'S FRIEND...

EW...

THE NAME'S SEIJI MIWA...

I'M A BIG FAN OF YOUR INSTAGRAM!

I'M SURE THAT EVEN IF YOU JOINED THE TEAM TODAY, YOU'D BE ON THE STARTING LINEUP!

I'M JEALOUS OF YOUR QUICK REFLEXES!

ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY...

...BASKETBALL AGAIN?

WHAT?

...

WHAT'S WITH THE AWKWARD SILENCE?

HUSH...

HUH?

...KOSHIBA WON'T JOIN THE CLUB.

NOT OUR CALL, BUT...

2－C

SHE WANTS TO JOIN, BUT SHE WON'T. WHAT'S THE REAL STORY?

OR MAYBE IT'S JUST AN INJURY...?

A FIGHT WITH THE ADVISOR...?

PERSONAL ISSUES?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL.

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY SHE WON'T PLAY ANYMORE.

WHY IS THIS BUGGING ME SO MUCH?

ROLL コロ…

DING キーン

DONG コーン…

OH!

SORRY!

COULD YOU PASS IT BACK?

ANNA-CHAN, RIKO-CHAN, GO ON WITHOUT ME.

OK!

I'LL CATCH YOU LATER.

...

WHAP!!!

HERE.

SWISH

SORRY!

THANKSSS!

NO PROBLEM!

IF IT WASN'T FOR MY INJURY...

I WOULD STILL BE PLAYING BASKETBALL.

THAT WAS YOUR VOICEOVER JUST NOW.

AM I RIGHT?

BECAUSE I'M IN THE HOME EC CLUB, OKAY?!

THEN WHY DON'T YOU PLAY BASKET-BALL?

WRONG!

I'M NOT INJURED.

YOU RUSH HOME AFTER SCHOOL.

THAT CAN'T BE THE ONLY REASON.

NARITA-SAN...

...YOU'RE KIND OF ANNOYING.

S-SORRY, I SAID TOO MUCH.

DID I MESS UP AGAIN?

SHOCK

HEY...


YOU SHOULD GO OUT WITH ME.

AND THEN, I'LL TELL YOU...

...MY SECRET.

Chapter 5:
The Very Beginning (Part 1)



GO OUT WITH ME.

THEN, I'LL TELL YOU...

HUH?

UM...

...MY SECRET.

WHAT?

"GO OUT"?

スーパー SUPER

スーパー SUPER

8 AM~ 10 PM

スーパー SUPER

…

UHHHH...

KOSHIBA-SAN?

WHY ARE WE AT THE SUPER-MARKET?

WELL, SALE ITEMS ARE LIMITED TO TWO PER CUSTOMER, SO LET'S TRY OUR BEST!

GWIP

?!!

OUR MISSION IS...

...TO GRAB MILK AND TOILET PAPER.

CHARGE

LET'S GO!

NARITA-SAN!

WAIT UP!!

ARGH!

THAT'S MINE!

TOILET

SWIPE

KONK

OUT OF THE WAY!

NARITA-SAN!

TOILET

TRMBL TRMBL

DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

I—!

KOSHIBA-SAN...

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

IT'S TWO PER PERSON, PEOPLE!!

GIMME!

I'M GOING TO DI—!!!

SQUEEZE

CHATTER

WHAT?

CHATTER

YOU ALL RIGHT?

CHATTER

AM I THE ONLY ONE GETTING WORKED UP? UGH...

IS THIS WHAT SHE MEANT BY "GO OUT WITH ME"?

PHEW! THIS SHOULD LAST US A WHILE!

THANKS A BUNCH, NARITA-SAN!

MY PLEASURE...

UGH!

MY HAIR'S A MESS...

スーパー SUPER

...

THAT WAY...

DO YOU REALLY, Y'KNOW... SWING THAT WAY?

SO, NARITA-SAN...

IT WAS JUST A BIG MISUNDER-STANDING, REALLY!

N-

GLARE

IT'S...

...BECAUSE I ADMIRE YOU, KOSHIBA-SAN.

THEN WHY DID YOU COME OUT WITH ME?

N-NO!

YOU'RE POPULAR WITHOUT TRYING TO BE SOMEONE YOU AREN'T.

THAT'S WHY I WANTED US TO BE FRIENDS.

ADMIRE?

FSH

ACTU-ALLY...

...I ENVY YOU, NARITA-SAN.

WAI—

SWSH

SWSH

SWSH

HOW ABOUT YOU COME EAT DINNER AT MY PLACE? I OWE YOU!

OH!

I NEED TO GET HOME!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

"I ENVY **YOU**, NARITA-SAN."

...BE FRIENDS WITH KOSHIBA-SAN WITHOUT SCREWING IT UP...

BUT SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN'T EVEN...

KOSHIBA RESIDENCE

SORRY FOR INTRUDING!

YOU'RE ...

...BACK!

THUD THUD THUD

THUD THUD THUD

KOSHIBA-SAN, YOU HAVE LITTLE BROTHERS?

AND THEY'RE TWINS...

COOL!

YEP, I'M HOME!

OPEN

WELCOME HOME, SIS.

I'M HUNGRY!

OH, HI THERE.

I'M AOI'S YOUNGER BROTHER.

WAAH

BUT,

SIS...

WAAAAHHHH

GO STUDY FOR YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS.

WAAAAHHHH

SORRY ABOUT THAT. I'LL WATCH HIM NEXT TIME.

THERE, THERE.

THERE, THERE.

HUP!

ME?!

WAH WAH

TWIRL

WAH

WELL, THAT'S THE KOSHIBA WELCOME! SAHOKO, HOLD HIM FOR A BIT?

YES, YES, THERE YOU GOOO!!

AMAZING!C HE STOPPED CRYING!

KOSHIBA-SAN...

FIVE...

FIVE.

INCLUDING ME.

KOSHIBA-SAN, HOW MANY SIBLINGS DO YOU HAVE?

TEP

BEFORE I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL...

...MY MOM PASSED AWAY.

AND MY BROTHERS AREN'T OLD ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

MY DAD'S REALLY BUSY, SO HE'S NOT HOME MUCH.

JOINING BASKETBALL WOULD TAKE UP WAY TOO MUCH OF MY TIME.

THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS HEAD HOME EARLY.

SORRY, I KNOW IT SEEMED LIKE I JUST LIKED TO SKIP CLUB ACTIVITIES...

...DIDN'T KNOW. I HAD NO RIGHT TO SAY ALL THAT EARLIER.

I...

BUUU-
BBEE!

I'M
REALLY
SORRY...

ACK!

BUUBY
BUUBY!

BOOBY
BAD...

THAT'S
RIGHT,
BOOBY
BAD.

BUUBY
BAH?

KAEDE!
CUT IT OUT,
NOTHING'S
COMING OUT
OF THOSE
BOOBS.

JUST
LIKE
MINE.

SOME-
HOW...

LET'S PLAY!

HEY, AOI'S FRIEND!

THIS
IS...

EVERYONE AT THE TABLE!

HERE!

DINNER'S READY!

YOU TOO, NARITA-SAN!

NOT QUITE HOW I IMAGINED KOSHIBA-SAN WOULD BE.

I WONDER WHAT ELSE I STILL HAVE TO LEARN ABOUT HER.

THIS LOOKS DELICIOUS!

YAKINIKU SAUCE GOES WITH EVERYTHING!

WHOA ...!

IS THAT A FULL MOON?! IT'S LIKE A PERFECT CIRCLE.

SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.

I GUESS I WAS MAKING AN UNREA-SONABLE REQUEST, ASKING FOR YOUR HELP WITH ALL THAT STUFF.

IF YOU KEEP HEADING THAT WAY, YOU'LL SEE THE STATION.

THANKS FOR SHOWING ME.

AMAZING HOW?

YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING, KOSHIBA-SAN...

MY PARENTS ARE AROUND A LOT, THOUGH, SO I CAN GO TO CLUBS AND DO STUFF AFTER SCHOOL.

I HAVE SIBLINGS, TOO. JUST ONE LITTLE BROTHER. HE'S USELESS AND A TOTAL WISE GUY.

HUH?

I UNDER-STAND WHY YOU HAD TO QUIT. EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO GOOD AT IT...

BASKET-BALL...

HUH?

KOSHIBA-SAN, YOU'RE CRYING!

ARE YOU OKAY?

WHY AM I...

I'M JUST AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE.

YEAH.

SHE'S ALWAYS GLOWING.

THANK YOU.

IT SEEMED LIKE I'D NEVER CATCH UP TO YOU, KOSHIBA-SAN. BUT...

TODAY,
I FEEL
SO CLOSE
TO YOU.



NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SOMEONE SAW THEM LEAVE TOGETHER.

ARE NISHINO-CHAN-SENSEI AND AIZAWA-SENSEI REALLY GOING OUT?

DO YOU THINK IT'S TRUE...?

AREN'T YOU JUMPING TO CONCLU-SIONS?

I THINK AIZAWA-SENSEI ONLY LIKES NISHINO-CHAN-SENSEI FOR HER BOOBS.

NOPE.

WHAT'S UP? GOT ANY HOT GOSS?

HMMM.

WHY ARE *YOU* INTERESTED ALL OF A SUDDEN?

THEY'RE ALL ABOUT BOOBS.

THAT'S HOW GUYS ARE...

WAIT, DO YOU LIKE AIZAWA-SENSEI?

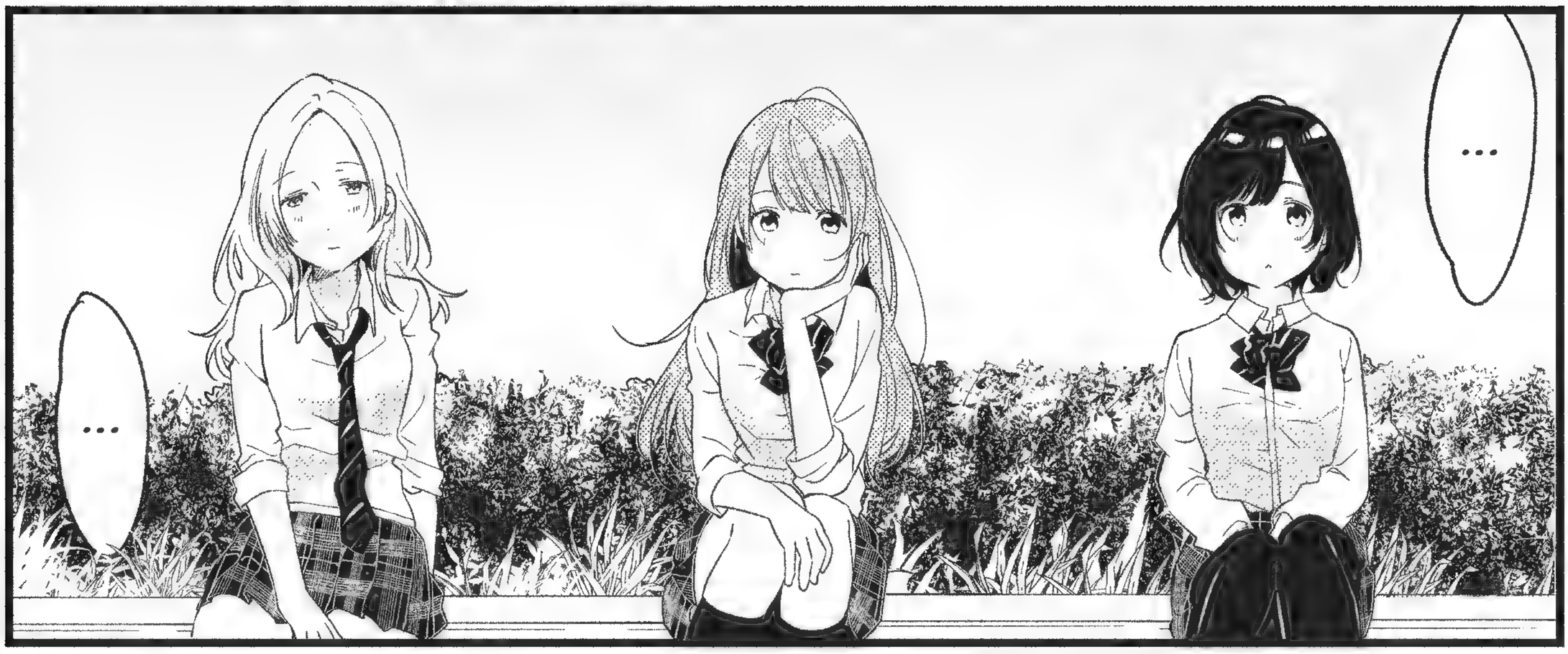
NO.

MM...

SO, RIKO, WHAT MAKES YOU CRUSH ON SOMEONE?

THEIR FACE?

SHE'S THE SAME AS EVER.


...
...


SOME SALES ARE COMING UP!
YEAH, SAME HERE!
I REALLY WANT SOME NEW CLOTHES.


I THINK THEY HAVE A SHOP IN LUMINE, TOO?
SO WHERE ARE YOU GONNA GO? LUMINE?
OH, BUT I'VE BEEN MEANING TO GO TO THAT STORE CALLED THE ALLEY IN SHIBUYA...
THEN LET'S DO LUMINE.
LUMINE'S COOL, BUT IT'S SUCH A LONG WALK...

BIOLOGY.

YUP

HERE'S A SKETCH. SWIP スッ

AOIII! ♡

WAG WAG WAG ブンブンブン

WHATCHA DOING? STUDYING?

SAHOKO!

COOL! SO I'LL SEE YOU AT CLUB.

THAT'S A BLANK PAGE...

YEAH, SURE.

MY AUNT'S COMING BY, SO I'LL HAVE SOME FREE TIME TOMORROW.

HEH HEH.

REALLY, REALLY?

OH, REALLY? DO WE REALLY SEEM THAT WAY?

YOU GUYS SEEM CLOSE.

RIKO-CHAN...

OH, SO YOU WANT MY OPINION, HUH?

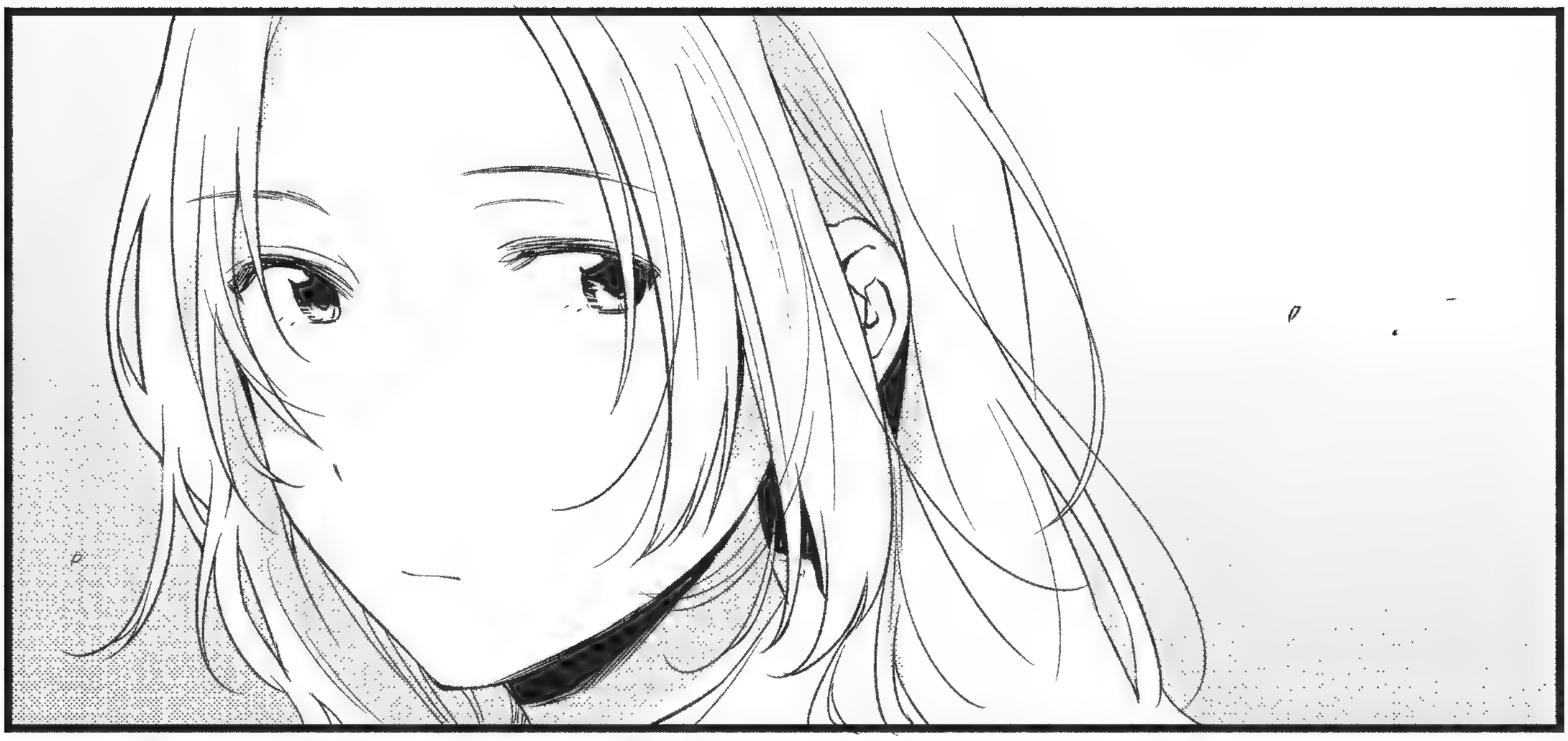
ACTU-ALLY...

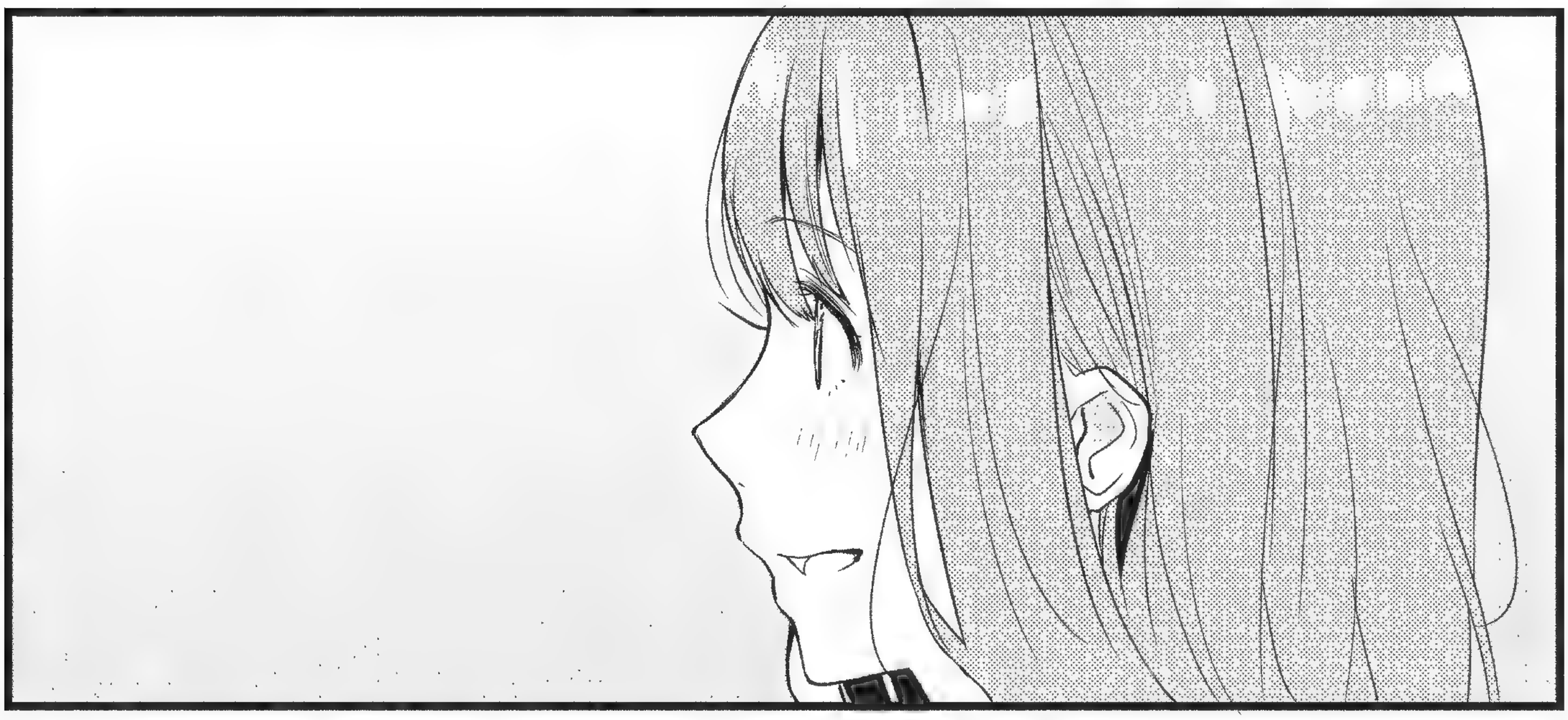
MAYBE I WAS IMAGINING THINGS.

I REALLY CAN'T SEE IT...

HMPH

YOU'RE SO MEAN!







CHASING AFTER *Aoi Koshiba*

Summer, Second Year of High School

CHASING AFTER *Aoi Koshiba*

Winter, Third Year of University

Chapter 6:
The Very Beginning (Part 2)



I'M IN UNIVERSITY NOW.

IT'S BEEN SEVERAL YEARS SINCE GRADUATION.

Nanyō Private High School
47th Class Reunio

AOI WOULD ONLY REPLY TO MY TEXTS WHEN SHE FELT LIKE IT, SO AFTER A WHILE, I STOPPED TEXTING HER. IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE LAST SPOKE.

WE'D CHECK IN FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE.

I WANT TO TALK TO HER IN PERSON.

CHATTER ざわ

SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T FEEL THE SAME WAY, THOUGH...

CHATTER ざわ

CHATTER ざわ

ドキ

JOLT

WHOA!

LOOK WHO SHOWED UP!

ドク

AOI...?

SIGH

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE YOU, MIWA-KUN...?

I GOT LOST ON THE WAY HERE.

I FINALLY MADE IT.

PEEK

OOPS, S-SORRY.

I'M SO HURT...

THAT'S COLD, NARITA-SAN...

REALLY?

RIKO'S MARRIED NOW!

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

I'VE ALWAYS PUSHED MYSELF TO SHOW EVERYONE THE BEST SIDE OF ME, BUT...

MAYBE BECAUSE I SHOWED HER HOW UNCOOL I WAS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

WITH AOI, I DIDN'T HAVE TO.

WE REALLY GOT EACH OTHER. I LIKED HER SO MUCH.

OR FRIENDSHIP?

...LOVE?

IS THIS...

WHEN I SEE AOI,
I WANT TO ASK
HER...

...

OW!

TWIP

WHAP

YOU GOOF.

I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A LOT ON YOUR MIND, BUT IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE YOU HERE WITH US.

YOU WERE ZONING OUT...

THAT HURT...

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

NOTHING.

NOTHING AT ALL.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

LET'S GO, ANNA-CHAN!

YAY! I WANNA SAY HI~

NISHINO-CHAN-SENSEI'S HERE!

TEP TEP TEP とととと～

HEY, YOU TWO!

...EVER AGAIN.

THINGS WOULD BE BETTER IF AOI KOSHIBA DIDN'T COME AROUND...

TMP

To Be Continued

CHASING AFTER *Aoi Koshiba*

Winter, Third Year of University

This story began with the character drawings for Sahoko and Aoi, coupled with the theme, “the woes of youth.” But how far it will go, and how closely we'll follow that, no one knows. It's a whole new world, so I hope you'll come along for the ride!

Hazuki Takeda

The relationships and feelings in this story are quite fluid and difficult to express. I look forward to depicting everything thoroughly and properly, all the way through. So join us, and thank you for reading.

Fly

CHASING AFTER Aoi Koshiba

Yuri Is My Job!

miman

JOIN US FOR AFTERNOON TEA WITH EQUAL PARTS YURI, ROM-COM, AND DRAMA!



Yuri is My Job! © Miman/Ichijinsha Inc.

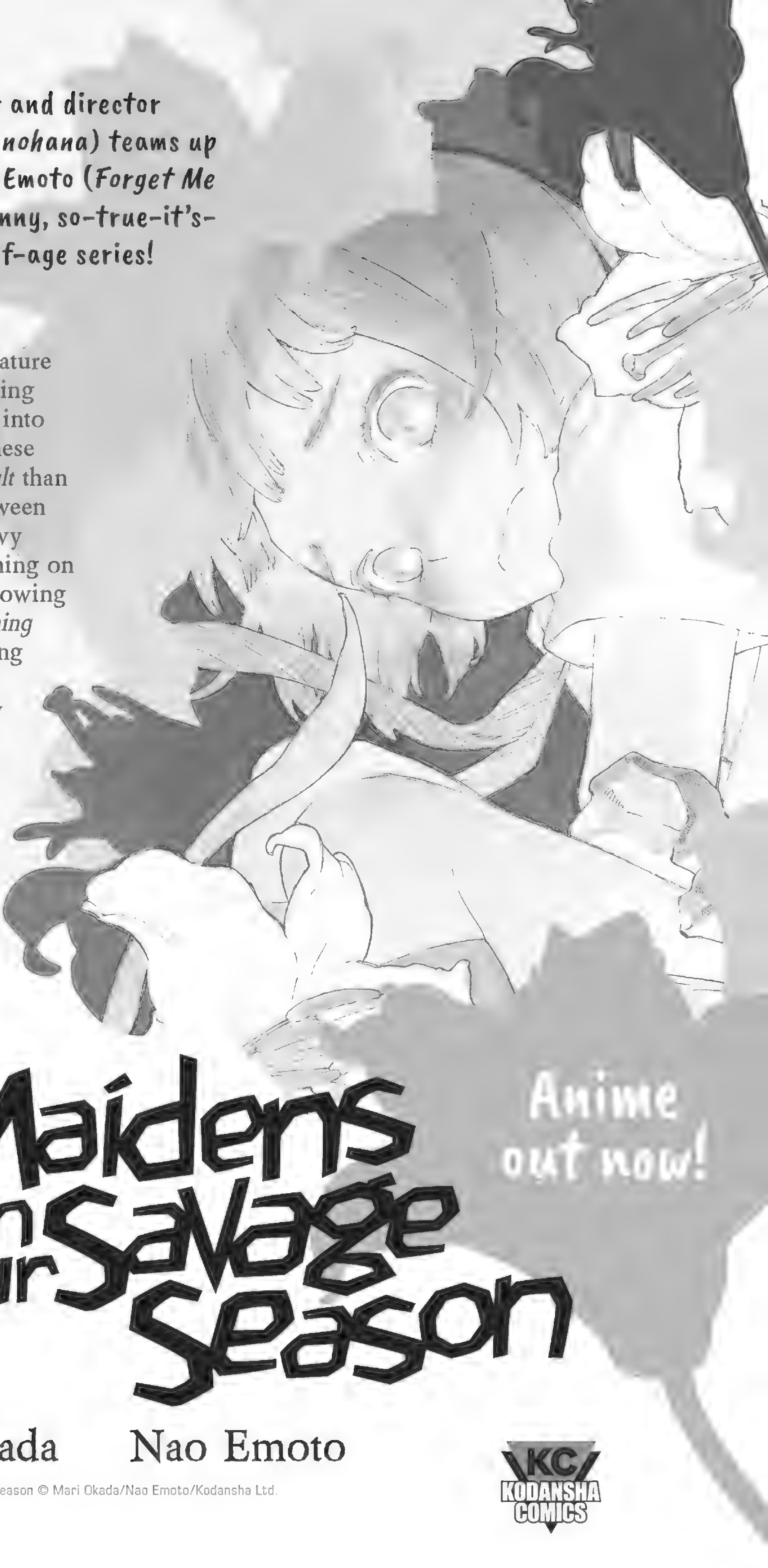
Hime is a picture-perfect high school princess, so when she accidentally injures a café manager named Mai, she's willing to cover some shifts to keep her façade intact. To Hime's surprise, the café is themed after a private school where the all-female staff always puts on their best act for their loyal customers. However, under the guidance of the most graceful girl there, Hime can't help but blush and blunder! Beneath all the frills and laughter, Hime feels tension brewing as she finds out more about her new job and her budding feelings...

KC KODANSHA COMICS

"A quirky, fun comedy series... If you're a yuri fan, or perhaps interested in getting into it but not sure where to start, this book is worth picking up."
— Anime UK News

Acclaimed screenwriter and director Mari Okada (*Maquia, anohana*) teams up with manga artist Nao Emoto (*Forget Me Not*) in this moving, funny, so-true-it's-embarrassing coming-of-age series!

When Kazusa enters high school, she joins the Literature Club, and leaps from reading innocent fiction to diving into the literary classics. But these novels are a bit more...*adult* than she was prepared for. Between euphemisms like fresh dewy grass and pork stew, crushing on the boy next door, and knowing you want to do that *one thing* before you die—discovering your budding sexuality is no easy feat! As if puberty wasn't awkward enough, the club consists of a brooding writer, the prettiest girl in school, an agreeable comrade, and an outspoken prude. Fumbling over their own discomforts, these five teens get thrown into chaos over three little letters: *S...E...X...!*



O Maidens in Your Savage Season

Anime out now!

Mari Okada Nao Emoto

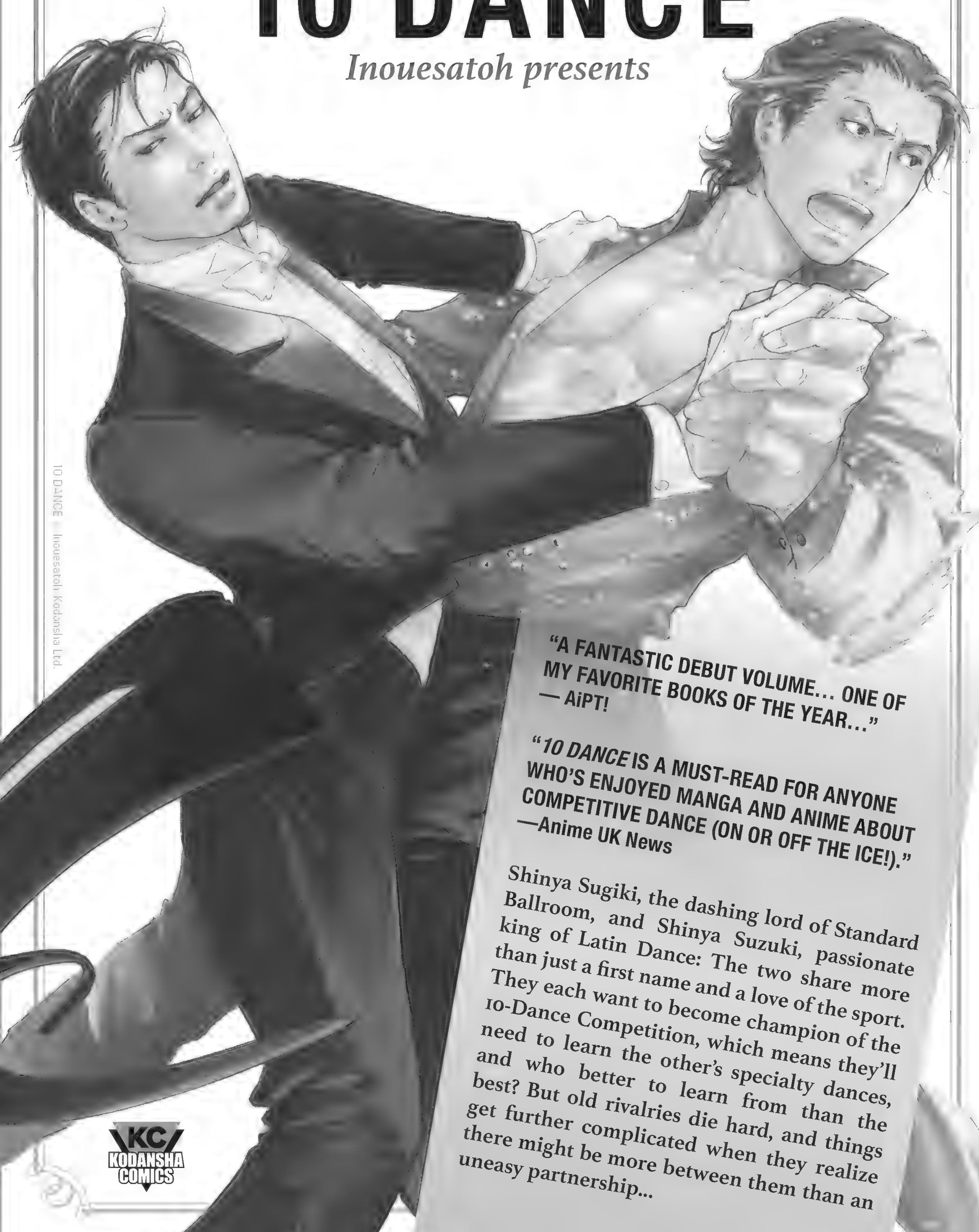
O Maidens in Your Savage Season © Mari Okada/Nao Emoto/Kodansha Ltd.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

The slow-burn queer romance that'll sweep you off your feet!

10 DANCE

Inouesatoh presents



"A FANTASTIC DEBUT VOLUME... ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR..."
— AiPT!

"*10 DANCE* IS A MUST-READ FOR ANYONE WHO'S ENJOYED MANGA AND ANIME ABOUT COMPETITIVE DANCE (ON OR OFF THE ICE!)."
—Anime UK News

Shinya Sugiki, the dashing lord of Standard Ballroom, and Shinya Suzuki, passionate king of Latin Dance: The two share more than just a first name and a love of the sport. They each want to become champion of the 10-Dance Competition, which means they'll need to learn the other's specialty dances, and who better to learn from than the best? But old rivalries die hard, and things get further complicated when they realize there might be more between them than an uneasy partnership...

10 DANCE © Inouesatoh Kodansha Ltd.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

KODANSHA COMICS

"I'm pleasantly surprised to find modern shojo using cross-dressing as a dramatic device to deliver social commentary... Recommended."

-Otaku USA Magazine



the prince in his dark days

By Hico Yamanaka

A drunkard for a father, a household of poverty... For 17-year-old Atsuko, misfortune is all she knows and believes in. Until one day, a chance encounter with Itaru–the wealthy heir of a huge corporation–changes everything. The two look identical, uncannily so. When Itaru curiously goes missing, Atsuko is roped into being his stand-in. There, in his shoes, Atsuko must parade like a prince in a palace. She encounters many new experiences, but at what cost...?

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PERFECT WORLD

Rie Aruga

A TOUCHING NEW SERIES ABOUT LOVE AND COPING WITH DISABILITY



An office party reunites Tsugumi with her high school crush Itsuki. He's realized his dream of becoming an architect, but along the way, he experienced a spinal injury that put him in a wheelchair. Now Tsugumi's rekindled feelings will butt up against prejudices she never considered — and Itsuki will have to decide if he's ready to let someone into his heart...

"Depicts with great delicacy and courage the difficulties some with disabilities experience getting involved in romantic relationships... Rie Aruga refuses to romanticize, pushing her heroine to face the reality of disability. She invites her readers to the same tasks of empathy, knowledge and recognition."
—Slate.fr

"An important entry [in manga romance]... The emotional core of both plot and characters indicates thoughtfulness... [Aruga's] research is readily apparent in the text and artwork, making this feel like a real story."
—Anime News Network

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Perfect World © Rie Aruga/Kodansha Ltd.



Knight of the Ice ©Yayoi Ogawa/Kodansha Ltd.

SKATING THRILLS AND ICY CHILLS WITH THIS NEW TINGLY ROMANCE SERIES!

A rom-com on ice, perfect for fans of *Princess Jellyfish* and *Wotakoi*. Kokoro is the talk of the figure-skating world, winning trophies and hearts. But little do they know... he's actually a huge nerd! From the beloved creator of *You're My Pet* (*Tramps Like Us*).

Chitose is a serious young woman, working for the health magazine *SASSO*. Or at least, she would be, if she wasn't constantly getting distracted by her childhood friend, international figure skating star Kokoro Kijinami! In the public eye and on the ice, Kokoro is a gallant, flawless knight, but behind his glittery costumes and breathtaking spins lies a secret: He's actually a hopelessly romantic otaku, who can only land his quad jumps when Chitose is on hand to recite a spell from his favorite magical girl anime!



KC KODANSHA COMICS

Chasing After Aoi Koshiba 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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